

common in September and early October, and on three separate occasions in September, a specimen was found in a light trap at Arnside among the moths.

In 12 years of consistently operating an m.v. light trap here, *Udea ferrugalis* Hbn. has never exceeded six specimens in one year, but this year there were 161. These did not suddenly appear in numbers overnight, and just as quickly pass by as migrants usually do, but slowly built up in numbers from late August until mid-September, and were about until 5th October. I mentioned this to the now late Mr. Arthur Watson, at the Lancashire & Cheshire Entomological & Natural History Society's Annual Exhibition on 25th October, when he informed me that the species was abundant in September on the St. Annes-on-Sea Nature Reserve, where he was warden, and that they were in his opinion locally bred.

I also had more *Nomophila noctuella* D. & S. in 1980 than ever before in one year, mostly spread over the whole of September, and totalling 31 compared to an average of six in former years. The 38 *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn., slightly above the average annual total, were spread out in ones and twos in August, September and October, but there was only one *Peridroma saucia* Hbn. this year. On the other hand, a total of 489 *Autographa gamma* L. at light in 1980 was above average. After the Spring movement, *gamma* was almost absent until August, when there were three separate upsurges in numbers and rapid declines in that month. There were two similar fluctuations in September, not paralleled by other species coming in to light. Contrary to our experience during the last few years, *gamma* was scarce here in October. — J. BRIGGS, 5, Deepdale Close, Slackhead, Beetham, Nr. Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7AY.

ON THE RECENT OCCURRENCE IN BRITAIN OF *CARYOCOLUM BLANDULELLA* TUTT. — At about mid-day on the 20th of August 1978, I netted a small gelechiid on the sandhills that border the Reserve of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation at Sandwich Bay, Kent. After setting the insect, a rather worn female, it was put on one side for further examination. Recently, I submitted the moth to Mr. E. S. Bradford who, after preparing a slide of the genitalia pronounced it as probably referable to *Caryocolum blandulella* Tutt, and the specimen was later confirmed by Dr. K. Sattler as belonging to this species. The life history of *C. blandulella* is unknown so far as I am aware, and apparently this is the first time since 1891 that the species has been taken in Britain.

*C. blandulella* was first described from Kent by J. W. Tutt in 1887 (in *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 24: 105) on the basis of specimens which he took on the Deal sandhills. Although Meyrick (1928, *Rev. Handbook Br. Lep.*, 635) stated the species had not been recorded from abroad and moreover was only known from Kent, the moth had already been cited from Hampshire by Goss and Fletcher (1900, *Lepidoptera in Victoria County History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*,

1: 151), who noted it from the sandhills on Hayling Island. Goater (1974, *Butterflies and Moths of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*, 105) in the absence of available corroboration, rightly placed the latter within square brackets, but the V.C.H. record is in fact correct, and *blandulella* is a good Hampshire species. In the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) are four of W. B. Fletcher's *blandulella* from Hayling dated 1891, and one suspects there are others from there in the Fletcher collection at Cambridge. There is also in the BMNH, a series of about 30 *blandulella* from Deal and Sandwich taken during the 1880's, including the lectotype. In conclusion, I wish to thank both Mr. Bradford and Dr. Sattler for kindly determining my example of *blandulella*. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

THE SWALLOW-TAIL MOTH IN OCTOBER. — I must record with surprise the arrival on the night of October 22nd 1980 at my m.v. trap here of a male *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. (Swallow-tail Moth) in very good condition. It seems an exceptionally late date although South reports in *The Moths of the British Isles* a 1904 record from Gravesend, Kent also on October 22nd. — K. G. W. EVANS, 31, Havelock Rd., Croydon, Surrey CR0 6QQ.

CYNTHIA CARDUI (L.). — Whilst walking along a ride in the Halwill Forest, four miles east south east of Holsworthy, Devon on June 7th 1980, two *C. cardui* were seen flying over their "territories". Close examination showed that one was in pristine condition and appeared freshly emerged. — A. J. BALDWIN, 33, Defoe Ave., Kew Gardens, Surrey.

COURTSHIP BEHAVIOUR BY A WOOD WHITE: LEPTIDEA SINAPIS L. — On Sunday, 10th August, 1980, whilst in Kingspark Wood, West Sussex, I happened to meet Miss D. Ashby who later pointed out to me the courtship behaviour of this butterfly of which I had no previous knowledge. A male had flown to a sitting female and settled facing her. He was soon seen to be striking her across the base of her antennae with his extended proboscis. After a little while, perhaps because of our close observation, he flew away. I wonder if this could be a means of establishing whether she had paired? — S. L. MEREDITH, 5, Rutlish Road, Merton Park, London SW19 3AL.

REQUEST FOR RECORDING RELEASES OF CLOSTERA ANACHORETA D. & S. — In view of the large numbers of larvae of this species which were distributed around the country during 1980 I feel that some sort of record should be kept of the areas where surplus specimens have been released. If this is not done future records of the occurrence of the moth as an immigrant will have little value. I will therefore make a start by giving districts where I released specimens. These are larvae at Slindon Park Woods, West Sussex; New Forest (Denny Wood and Lady Cross); and imagines at Walberswick, Suffolk. If the insect manages to establish itself it will not matter anyway, but if it largely dies out, such records may help to establish which are new immigrants and which are the result of releases. — H. E. CHIPPERFIELD, The Shielling, Walberswick, Suffolk.